

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (previously presented): An electronic business transaction service method for conducting a business transaction over a computer network, comprising:

receiving from a client computer an electronic business transaction document that is compatible with a business management software program, the electronic business transaction document being directed in one or more communication formats to plural recipient parties to a business transaction, the electronic business transaction document being created by a business management software program in the client computer, the electronic business transaction document including address information and a preferred communication format indicator for each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction, the address information and the preferred communication format being automatically retrieved from an electronic address book stored at the client computer, wherein the electronic business transaction document is received by a transaction service server computer communicating with the client computer through a computer network;

determining at the transaction service server computer a preferred communication format for each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction, the preferred business transaction document communication format being determined by an electronic business management software residing at the transaction service server computer that interprets the preferred communication format indicator of each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction;

if the transaction service server computer determines that the preferred business transaction document communication format of a party is a computer communication format, sending the electronic business transaction document from the transaction service server computer to a first recipient party using a computer communication format; and

if the transaction service server computer determines that the preferred business transaction document communication format of a party is a non-computer communication format, sending the electronic business transaction document from the transaction service server computer to a second recipient party using a non-computer communication format.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 19 in which one of the preferred communication formats includes telephonic facsimile.

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 19 wherein adding a recipient party to the electronic business transaction document automatically associates with the recipient party the preferred communication format indicator.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of claim 22 further comprising manually changing the preferred communication format automatically associated with the recipient party prior to sending the electronic business transaction document to the recipient party.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method of claim 19 further comprising charging a fee for each recipient party to which the electronic business transaction document is sent from the transaction service server computer.